AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

19.   (Currently Amended) A push-to-talk communications method for use with

a push-to-talk communications device, which method does not require a separate

dialing phase, said method comprising:

using a push-to-talk communication device during generation of an audio stream;

in response to a user pressing a button on the push-to-talk communication

device and starting to talk, receiving at a router server in a communications network an

audio stream containing an utterance which includes an indication of an intended

receiver of the audio stream; when a user presses a button on a user device and starts

to talk;

buffering the received audio stream;

performing a speech recognition process on the received audio stream to

recognize recognise the utterance contained therein;

determining, if possible, an intended receiver of the audio stream in dependence

upon the recognized on the recognised utterance; and

if an intended receiver was determined, transmitting, transmitting said audio

stream to the determined intended receiver, the audio stream containing the utterance

including the indication of the intended receiver of the audio stream, using a half-duplex

- 2 -

communications service provided by a packet-switched network.

20.　(Currently Amended)　A method according to claim 19, wherein when the determining step determines one or more possible intended receivers from the recognized recognised utterance, the method further comprises the steps: indicating the one or more possible intended receivers to a user; and receiving a selection signal from the user indicating the one or more determined possible intended receivers to which said audio stream the message should be transmitted.

21.　(Previously Presented)　A method according to claim 20, wherein the indicating step further comprises generating an audio speech prompt corresponding to the one or more possible intended receivers; and outputting the generated audio speech prompt to the user.

22.　(Previously Presented)　A method according to claim 19, wherein when the determining step determines a plurality of intended receivers, the audio stream is transmitted to each of the determined receivers using a group call function of the half-duplex communications service.

23.　(Previously Presented)　A method according to claim 19, wherein the speech recognition process is performed only on a portion of the received audio stream when the intended recipient is indicated at the beginning of the audio stream.

1520195

24.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, and further

comprising the steps of: receiving an indication of the identity of a user who generated

the audio stream; and selecting a user-dependent speech grammar for use by the

speech recognition process in dependence on the identity of the user.

25.   (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, and further

comprising the steps of receiving a speech recognition activation signal from a user,

wherein the speech recognition and determining steps are performed in dependence on

the receipt of such a signal.

26.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, and further

comprising the steps of:

monitoring ~~receiving~~ audio streams transported by the half-duplex

communications service;

performing a speech recognition process on the monitored ~~received~~ audio

streams to determine the respective utterances contained therein; and

if it is determined that a predetermined utterance is contained in any of the audio

streams, signaling that the half-duplex communications service should cease

transporting the audio stream.

27.   (Currently Amended) A tangible data storage ~~computer~~ medium

containing a computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when

run on a computer system all the steps of the method of claim 19 are performed.

28.   (Currently Amended) A <u>tangible data</u> ~~computer readable~~ storage medium

storing a computer program or any one or more of a suite of computer programs which

cause a computer to perform the method of claim 19.

29.   (Currently Amended) A push-to-talk communications system <u>which does</u>

<u>not require a separate dialing phase,</u> comprising:

a user device arranged in operation to both receive an audio stream containing

an utterance <u>which includes an indication of an intended receiver of the audio stream,</u>

and forward said audio stream to a router server of a communications network when a

user presses a button on said user device and starts to talk;

storage means for buffering the received audio stream;

a speech <u>recognizer</u> ~~recogniser~~ arranged in use to <u>recognize</u> ~~recognise~~ the

utterance contained within the received audio stream;

receiver determination means arranged to determine, if possible, an intended

receiver of the audio stream in dependence on the <u>recognized</u> ~~recognised~~ utterance;

and

means for transmitting said audio stream <u>containing the utterance, including the</u>

<u>indication of the intended receiver of the audio stream,</u> to a determined intended

receiver using a half-duplex communications service provided by a packet-switched

network, if the intended receiver was determined.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, and further comprising: indicating means for indicating one or more possible determined intended receivers to a user; and means for receiving a selection signal from the user indicating one or more of the possible determined intended receivers to which the audio stream should be transmitted.

31. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 30, wherein the indicating means further comprises audio prompt generating means for generating an audio speech prompt corresponding to the one or more of possible intended receivers; and an output for outputting the generated audio speech prompt to the user.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, wherein when the receiver determination means determines a plurality of intended receivers, the means for transmitting is further arranged to transmit the audio stream to each of the determined receivers using a group call function of the half-duplex communications service.

33. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 29, wherein the speech recognizer ~~recogniser~~ operates only on a portion of the received audio stream when the intended recipient is indicated at the beginning of the audio stream.

34.   (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, and further

comprising: means for receiving an indication of the identity of a user who generated the

audio stream; and grammar selection means for selecting a user-dependent speech

grammar for use by the speech recognition process in dependence on the identity of the

user.

35.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 29, and further

comprising the steps of means for receiving a speech recognition activation signal from

a user, wherein the speech recognizer recogniser and receiver determination means

are operable in dependence on the receipt of such a signal.

36.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 29, and further

comprising:

        means for monitoring receiving audio streams transported by the half-duplex

communications service;

        the speech recognizer recogniser being further arranged to perform a speech

recognition process on the monitored received audio streams to determine the

respective utterances contained therein; and

        the system further comprising signalling means for signalling that the half-duplex

communications service should cease transporting audio streams, if it is determined

that a predetermined utterance is contained in any of the audio streams.

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